

WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspectors

For the Year 1946

67173



# Wycombe Rural District Council

## 1946

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*Chairman:*  
MR. G. C. TEW.

*Vice-Chairman:*  
MR. G. T. CANTLE-BEAUMONT.

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### PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

At 1st May, 1946.

*Chairman:*  
Mr. W. G. Britnell.

The Chairman of the Council.	The Vice-Chairman of the Council.
Mr. S. B. Biggs.	Mr. C. G. Reynolds.
Miss M. M. J. Couper.	Mrs. M. Roach.
Brig. Gen. Hoarne-Nairne.	Mr. G. Sherwin.
Mr. F. M. Kimber.	Mr. O'Hara Taylor.
Mr. G. B. Lee.	Miss M. Towerton.
Mr. L. F. Lunnon.	Mrs. D. M. Walker.
Major T. M. McGowan.	Mr. E. J. West.
Mrs. C. Oakeshott.	Mr. F. Willis.
Mr. J. Pearce.	Mr. W. J. Winter-Taylor.
Mrs. E. Pick.	Mr. S. C. Wood.
Mr. E. G. Pusey.	Mrs. M. G. Woollerton.
Mrs. E. S. Quicke.	Mr. G. Yates.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, Etc.

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### *Medical Officer of Health (Part Time):*

FRANCIS H. P. WILLS.

Appointed 1st April, 1923. Telephone No. Marlow 47

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### *Sanitary Inspectors:*

Walter A. E. Tanner, A.R.San.I.	Senior Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor, No. 2 District (Princes Risborough). Water Engineer. Appointed 1927.
John P. Perry, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor, No. 1 District (Wycombe). Appointed 1931.
Noel Morgan, A.R.San.I.	Assistant Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector. Appointed 1935.
Dennis J. Sullivan, M.S.I.A.	Assistant Sanitary Inspector. Appointed 1938.
Stanley A. Latimer.	Draughtsman and Certificated Assistant Sanitary Inspector. Appointed 1938.

### *Clerks:*

Miss A. Hole.

\*Mr. L. Petts.

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## OFFICES AND COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL :—

17, High Street, HIGH WYCOMBE.

Telephone No. : High Wycombe 1030.

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(\*Serving with H.M. Forces).

# Wycombe Rural District Council

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## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health 1946

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
17, High Street,  
High Wycombe.

June, 1947.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Public Health Services for the year 1946.

It has been compiled in accordance with those sections of the Ministry of Health's circular 13/47 relevant to the district.

The maternal mortality and infant mortality rate were both satisfactory, and the incidence of infectious disease very low.

I would like to express my appreciation of the valued services of the senior officers of the Public Health Department during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS H. P. WILLS,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

The Old House,  
Marlow,  
Bucks.

## Statistics

Area of the Wycombe Rural District (in Acres) .....	71,236
Resident Population (Census 1931) .....	27,495
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid year, 1946 .....	35,050
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to Rate Books .....	10,110
Rateable Value .....	£219,086
Estimated Product of Penny Rate .....	£855.15.9

### EXTRACTS from VITAL STATISTICS of the Year.

#### BIRTHS :—

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births—Legitimate .....	565	310	255
Illegitimate .....	37	19	18
	<hr/> 602	<hr/> 329	<hr/> 273
Still Births—Legitimate .....	18	9	9
Illegitimate .....	4	2	2
	<hr/> 22	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 11

The Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ..... 17.01

    "      "      "      "      "      "      England and Wales ..... 19.1

DEATHS :— Males — 160. Females — 154. Total ..... 314

The Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ..... 8.9

    "      "      "      "      "      "      England and Wales ..... 11.5

    "      "      "      "      "      "      Wycombe R.D.C. Phthisis.. .11

Number of women dying in consequence of childbirth. Deaths :

    (a) From puerperal sepsis ..... 0

    (b) From other puerperal causes ..... 0

INFANT MORTALITY—19 infants died under the age of one year.

    Legitimate ..... 9 males                      5 females

    Illegitimate ..... 4 males                      1 female

<hr/> 13	<hr/> 6
<hr/>	<hr/>

This represents a mortality of 31.5 as compared with that of England and Wales of 43 per 1,000.

The 19 deaths were attributable to the following :—

Premature births .....	6
Infant Diseases .....	6
Birth Injuries .....	
Congenital malformations .....	
Other defined diseases .....	7

### CANCER.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	32	34	66
as compared with .....	40	31	71 in 1945
„ „ „ .....	28	34	62 in 1944
„ „ „ .....	29	39	68 in 1943

The following organs were affected :—

Breast .....	4
Buc. cav. and œsophagus .....	2
Uterus .....	7
Stomach and duodenum .....	13
All other sites .....	40

## Table of Deaths (All causes)

	Males.	Females.
1. Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers .....	—	—
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever .....	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever .....	—	—
4. Whooping Cough .....	—	1
5. Diphtheria .....	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	2	2
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis .....	—	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases .....	1	1
9. Influenza .....	2	2
10. Measles .....	—	—
11. Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis .	—	—
12. Acute Inf. encephalitis .....	—	—
13. Cancer of the buc. cav. and œsophagus (M)		
uterus (F)	2	7

14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum .....	6	7
15. Cancer of the Breast .....	-	4
16. Cancer of all other sites .....	24	16
17. Diabetes .....	1	1
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions .....	16	26
19. Heart Diseases .....	44	34
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system .....	3	8
21. Bronchitis .....	7	6
22. Pneumonia .....	8	10
23. Other respiratory diseases .....	2	3
24. Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum .....	-	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years .....	1	-
26. Appendicitis .....	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases .....	3	4
28. Nephritis .....	8	4
29. Puerperal and post-abort. sepsis .....	-	-
30. Other maternal causes .....	-	-
31. Premature Birth .....	5	1
32. Congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile diseases .....	3	3
33. Suicide .....	2	-
34. Road traffic accidents .....	3	-
35. Other violent causes .....	1	1
36. All other causes .....	16	12

TABLE 1. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS), 1946.

	Total cases notified.	Patients admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox .....	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever .....	37	31	-
Diphtheria .....	5	5	-
Enteric Fever (including Para- typhoid) .....	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	3	-	-
Pneumonia .....	6	-	18
Erysipelas .....	6	1	-
Poliomyelitis .....	2	2	-
Chicken Pox .....	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .....	-	1	-



## TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE 2. NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING  
THE YEAR 1946.

The following particulars relate to new cases of tuberculosis and of all the deaths from the disease during the year.

Age Periods.						New Cases.				Deaths.			
						Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
						M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	2	1	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	13	10	3	2	3	2	...	...

## DIPHTHERIA.

Four of the five diphtheria patients notified were adults and the parishes affected were as follows :—

Wooburn (2),  
Chepping Wycombe Rural (1),  
Radnage (2).

## IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The campaign against diphtheria has been continued, and progressive action can be reported with regard to the number of children immunised. With the co-operation of the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff and the able assistance of the School Head Teachers 92.4 per cent. of the estimated child population between 5 and 15 years of age was immunised at the year ended 31st December, 1946.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The following ambulance facilities are available in the area of the Wycombe Rural District Council :—

(a) For Infectious Cases :—

An ambulance is supplied by the Wycombe and District Joint Hospital Board for service in the Borough of High Wycombe, and the Urban Districts of Beaconsfield and Marlow, and the Rural District of Wycombe. The facilities are adequate for the areas served.

(b) For Non-Infectious Cases :—

An ambulance is kept at St. John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters, Bourne End, and is available in the South Eastern portion of the Rural District. For the remainder of the area, ambulances are available from the adjoining Boroughs of High Wycombe, Aylesbury and Henley-on-Thames, and the Urban District of Marlow.

For normal needs, the above facilities are reasonably sufficient.

# Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1946

## GENERAL.

	District.	
	No. 1.	No. 2.
Number of General Inspections and re-inspections	1,104	1,032
Inspections and visits under the Housing Act, 1936, and the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925, and visits to houses previously inspected but works not completed .....	765	329
Inspections and visits under Housing Act, 1936 (Part 4—overcrowding) .....	43	22
Inspections under Public Health Act, 1936 .....	296	364
Number of Interviews with owners in respect of Housing Repairs, Plans and Specifications for reconditioning dwelling houses .....	216	92

## WORKS EXECUTED AS A RESULT OF NOTICES.

Dwelling house roofs repaired .....	31	21
„ „ eaves gutters repaired or provided where missing .....	35	19
„ „ brickwork to walls, chimney stacks etc., made good .....	24	18
„ „ woodwork to windows repaired ...	21	17
„ „ interior plaster made good .....	32	22
„ „ windows made to open for the purpose of ventilation .....	7	2
„ „ woodwork to stairs, floors, etc., made good .....	29	4
„ „ dampness remedied .....	36	16
„ „ interior walls cleansed and re- decorated .....	17	18
„ „ cooking arrangements, etc., rendered serviceable .....	14	7
„ „ outbuildings repaired .....	11	2
Miscellaneous Works .....	27	—
Dwelling house drains cleansed, ventilated or made sound .....	15	—
„ „ new drainage system provided ...	6	13
„ „ new cesspools provided .....	7	8

E.C.'s or privies converted to W.C.'s .....	4	-
Closets repaired .....	17	2
New W.C.'s constructed .....	6	3
House sinks provided .....	12	3
Sanitary ashbins provided .....	14	12
Manure accumulation nuisances abated .....	5	-
Animal nuisances abated .....	17	-
Yards paved and drained .....	4	-

#### VARIOUS.

Number of visits made to infected houses .....	44	38
"    "    investigations, schools, etc., re infectious cases .....	52	18
"    "    houses disinfected .....	41	12
"    "    houses disinfested .....	3	-
"    "    Council houses found infested with bugs	1	-
"    "    Council houses disinfested .....	1	-
"    "    other houses found infested .....	4	-
"    "    other houses disinfested .....	4	-
"    "    inspections of moveable dwellings ...	42	28
"    "    inspections of petroleum stores .....	21	24
"    "    Petroleum licences issued .....	28	24

#### BUILDINGS.

Total number of plans submitted .....	309	132
Plans for dwelling houses .....	126	47
"    "    additions to dwelling houses .....	56	20
"    "    factory buildings .....	14	7
"    "    other buildings (garages, etc.) .....	78	44
"    "    house drainage, etc. ....	14	10
"    "    layouts of land .....	21	4
Number of letters, Approval and Building Notices and Certificates .....	941	145

#### SUMMARY OF INFORMAL NOTICES AND RESULTS OF SAME.

Article 27 of the Sanitary Officer's (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1936, in relation to Inspections and Notices, etc.

Acts and Sections under which Notices were served.	No. of Informal Notices & Letters.	Complied with.	Not complied with.
P.H.A., 1936, Sec. 92 (1) (a) .....	101	59	42
" " " 259 .....	—	—	—
" " " 92 (1) (b) .....	—	—	—
" " " 92 (1) (c) .....	—	—	—
" " " 39 .....	59	54	5
" " " 44-45 .....	11	10	1
" " " 75 .....	10	9	1
" " " 56 .....	—	—	—
" " " 141 .....	—	—	—
" " " 39 (1) (b) .....	12	12	—
" " " 39 (1) (d) .....	—	—	—
" " " 138 .....	33	33	—
Housing Acts and Regulations .....	50	39	11
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 .....	44	33	11
Totals .....	320	249	71

### SUMMARY OF STATUTORY NOTICES AND RESULTS OF SAME.

Acts and Sections under which Notices were served.	No. of Notices.	Complied with.	Work in progress at end of year.	Notices not complied with.	Prosecutions.
P.H.A., 1936, Sec. 92 (1) (a) ...	42	31	11	—	—
" " " 259 .....	—	—	—	—	—
" " " 92 (1) (b) ...	—	—	—	—	—
" " " 92 (1) (c) ...	—	—	—	—	—
" " " 39 .....	5	5	—	—	—
" " " 44-45 .....	1	1	—	—	—
" " " 75 .....	1	1	—	—	—
" " " 56 .....	—	—	—	—	—
" " " 141 .....	—	—	—	—	—
" " " 39 (1) (b) ...	—	—	—	—	—
" " " 39 (1) (d) ...	—	—	—	—	—
" " " 138 .....	—	—	—	—	—
Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9 .....	11	9	2	—	—
" " " " 10 .....	—	—	—	—	—
" " " " 11 .....	—	—	—	—	—
" " " " 13 .....	—	—	—	—	—
" " " " 16 .....	—	—	—	—	—
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 .....	11	10	1	—	—
TOTALS .....	71	57	14	—	—

## RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The survey of the rural housing conditions recommended by the Hobhouse Committee, and asked for by the Ministry of Health in Circular 64/44 is now in progress. It is to be regretted however that there is little prospect of extensive schemes of repair being put in hand at the present time owing to the acute shortage of building labour and material.

### CESSPOOL EMPTYING, 1946.

PARISH.	Gallons of sewage removed.
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton .....	679,850
Bradenham .....	14,500
Chepping Wycombe Rural .....	3,119,750
Ellesborough .....	409,000
Fawley .....	22,750
Fingest .....	1,187,250
Hambleden .....	401,950
Hampden, Great and Little .....	43,750
Hughenden .....	4,072,260
Ibstone .....	239,750
Kimble, Great and Little .....	250,000
Lacey Green .....	556,100
Longwick-cum-Illmire .....	212,750
Marlow, Great .....	459,800
Marlow, Little .....	127,350
Medmenham .....	127,100
Princes Risborough .....	149,250
Radnage .....	251,650
Stokenchurch .....	1,968,400
Turville .....	226,500
Wooburn .....	3,785,950
West Wycombe Rural .....	636,200
Total .....	<hr/> 18,941,860 <hr/>

1945 Total Gallons — 18,925,900.

Annual Report for the year 1946 for the Rural District of Wycombe in the County of Buckinghamshire, on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

# 1. INSPECTIONS MADE FOR PROVISION AS TO HEALTH.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspec- tions. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers. Prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power .....	33	18	—
Factories without mechanical power .....	21	11	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not outworkers' premises) .....	17	3	—
TOTALS .....	71	32	—

## 2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	No. of Defects.			No. of defects in respect of which prose- cutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness .....	4	4	—	—
Overcrowding .....	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature .....	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .....	—	—	—	—
Ineffective floor drainage .....	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences, insufficient, unsuitable or defective .....	18	18	—	—
Sanitary conveniences not separate for sexes .....	9	9	—	—
TOTAL .....	31	31	—	—

## FOOD SUPPLIES.

### No. 1 and No. 2 Districts.

Meat surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

Ox, Bullock, Cow—

Carcase or portions of carcase .....	387
Liver .....	36½
Head and Tongue .....	20



Pig—	
Bacon .....	79 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sheep—	
Carcase or portions of carcase .....	50
Other Foods—	
Canned Corned Beef .....	714 $\frac{3}{4}$
Canned Sardines .....	10
Canned Stewed Steak .....	36
Canned Baked Beans .....	9
Canned Sausage Meat .....	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canned Salmon .....	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canned Pilchards .....	146
Canned Spam .....	12
Canned Soup .....	1
Canned Beetroot .....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canned Peas .....	5
Canned Corned Mutton .....	$\frac{3}{4}$
Canned Steak and Kidney .....	1
Canned Evaporated Milk .....	43 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canned Condensed Milk .....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese .....	59
Biscuits .....	15
Apricots .....	2
Sugar .....	14
Marmalade .....	4
Tomatoes .....	130
Butter .....	47
Shell Eggs .....	18 doz.

### MILK SUPPLIES.

Favourable progress has been made in the re-conditioning of premises, and the provision of up-to-date dairy equipment. Inspection of cowsheds has been systematically carried out and a good response obtained from milk producers with regard to compliance with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order.

### BAKEHOUSES.

There is no change in the number of bakehouses on the register during the year. The conditions relative to the premises, utensils and handling of the foodstuffs have continued to be satisfactory.

### MEAT INSPECTION.

The restriction on slaughtering introduced at the outbreak of war by the Ministry of Food is still in force and the home



killed meat allocated for the Wycombe Rural Area is from animals killed in a slaughterhouse situated in an adjoining district. Meat shops in your Council's area are regularly visited in order to ensure that meat which is passed as fit for human consumption at the time of slaughter does not deteriorate and become unfit and sold for human consumption.

## Rainfall, 1946

Professor Geo. E. Gask, "Hatchmans," Hambleden, has again favoured me with particulars of recorded rainfall during the year ended 31st December, 1946.

### RAINFALL RECORDED AT HAMBLEDEN.

Station :—185 feet above sea level.

Month.	Annual Rain-fall.	No. of days on which rain fell with .01 or more measured.	Largest Rainfall.	
			Date.	Amount.
January .....	2.02	11	9th	.47
February .....	2.67	19	8th	.56
March .....	1.37	10	21st	.60
April .....	2.14	10	29th	.55
May .....	4.63	14	26th	1.05
June .....	3.03	22	1st	.44
July .....	1.89	8	3rd	1.04
August .....	4.75	21	19th	.85
September .....	4.56	23	3rd	.87
October .....	1.59	10	21st	.45
November .....	5.71	20	23rd	.73
December .....	2.16	20	8th	.39
Totals .....	36.62	188		

